

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendment, several of the pending claims will have been amended and several additional claims will have been submitted for consideration by the Examiner. In particular, claims 20, 26, 30, 32, 33, 35, 36 and 43-45 will have been amended while claims 46-52 will have been submitted for consideration by the Examiner. Additionally, claims 31 and 44 will have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

In view of the herein contained amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections together with an indication of the allowability of all the claims pending in the present application, in due course.

Initially, Applicant wishes to thank Examiner Pokrzywa for acknowledging Applicant's Claim for Priority as well as for acknowledging receipt of the priority documents submitted with regard to Applicant's claims for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119.

Additionally, Applicant respectfully thanks the Examiner for considering the various documents submitted in the numerous Information Disclosure Statements filed in the present application.

Further, Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for indicating the approval of the drawings filed together with the present application on May 20, 1999.

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Applicant further wishes to make of record a personal interview conducted between Applicant's undersigned representative and Examiner Pokrzywa on April 15, 2003. Applicant also notes that Mr. Naoyuki Tsuchiya, representing the Assignee of the present application, was present during the above-noted interview.

During the above-noted interview, Applicant's representative reviewed the operation of the present invention and discussed the features recited in Applicants claims. Applicant further reviewed the GORDON reference relied upon by the Examiner and in particular discussed the structured document recited therein. In particular, Applicant noted that Applicant's structured document is not a list or chart as shown in GORDON, column 10, lines 37-50 but is an HTML file. In this regard, during the above-noted interview, Applicant's representative showed the Examiner and the Examiner reviewed an amended version of claim 20 which included the substantive amendments submitted by the present Response. At the conclusion of the above-noted interview, the Examiner acknowledged that GORDON does not disclose the features recited in Applicant's proposed amended claim 20 and that the proposed amended claim 20 appears to overcome the teachings of the reference. Of course, the Examiner indicated that he would perform an update search before acting on the newly submitted claims.

Applicant acknowledges the Examiner's indication with appreciation, requests that he do an update search and also contact Applicant's undersigned representative in the event

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that the update search produces any material of relevance to the present application. The Examiner agreed to contact Applicant's undersigned representative in the event that the conclusion he reached during the interview is impacted by any result of the update search. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication regarding the GORDON reference being overcome as well as his indication that he would contact Applicant's representative before taking any further action in this application in the event that any relevant references are uncovered during the update search.

Returning to the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner rejected claims 20, 21, 23-25, 29-34, 36-38 and 42-45 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by GORDON (U.S. Patent No. 5,608,786). Additionally, claims 22, 27, 28, 35, 40 and 41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as unpatentable over GORDON in view of HSIAO (U.S. Patent No. 5,848,137). Further, claims 26 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as unpatentable over GORDON in view of KULAKOWSKI (WIPO Publication No. WO 97/10668).

While the primary discussion during the above-noted interview was and in the present Response is with respect to claim 20, Applicant notes that the remainder of the independent claims similarly contain features that are not taught, disclosed nor rendered obvious by the GORDON reference relied upon by the Examiner. In particular, GORDON does not disclose a generator that generates an HTML file nor a communicator that performs an HTTP

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protocol communication with a terminal apparatus to transmit the HTML file in response to a request from the terminal apparatus, as recited in claim 30.

In this regard, the above-noted shortcomings of GORDON are not supplied by the disclosures of either HSIAO et al. or KULAKOWSKI. Thus, the secondary references relied upon by the Examiner do not overcome the shortcomings of the reference applied against the independent claims. Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are patentable at least for the reasons that they are dependent from a shown to be allowable independent claim as well as reasons related to their own additional recitations.

Applicant's invention is directed to a communication apparatus which includes a scanner and a printer and which is connected to a terminal apparatus via a network. As illustrated in Fig. 4, the network apparatus is designated as client machine 202. The communication apparatus of the present invention includes a receiver that receives e-mail data via the network, a memory that stores the e-mail data received by the receiver, and a generator that generates an HTML file including management data corresponding to the stored e-mail data. The management data includes sender data of the e-mail data. The communication apparatus according to the present invention further includes a communicator that performs an HTTP protocol communication with a terminal apparatus to transmit the HTML file to the terminal apparatus when a request for the management data is received from the terminal apparatus, the management data and the HTML file being displayable at the terminal apparatus.

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Accordingly, when management data is designated at the terminal apparatus, the communicator of the communication apparatus transmits the e-mail data corresponding to the designated management data to the terminal apparatus.

Regarding the above-noted communication apparatus recited in claim 20, the Examiner's attention is respectfully directed to the flowchart described in the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 13 and illustrated in Fig. 6 taken in conjunction with Figs. 7 and 8. Thus, according to the features of the present invention, the terminal apparatus can designate particular management data and in response to such designation, the communicator of the communication apparatus can perform an appropriate communication (using an HTTP protocol) to transmit the structured file (i.e., the HTML file to the terminal apparatus) so that the HTML file can be displayed at the terminal apparatus. It is respectfully submitted that the combination of features recited in Applicant's claim is not taught, disclosed nor rendered obvious by GORDON.

GORDON is noted to disclose a unified messaging system wherein a plurality of access nodes such as the New York unipost access node, the Toronto unipost access node and the Tokyo unipost access node are provided to enable local public switched telephone networks (PSTNs) to communicate via the Internet. However, GORDON does not teach, disclose or render obvious a generator that generates an HTML file as recited in Applicant's, e.g., claim 20 nor a communicator that performs an HTTP protocol communication with the

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terminal apparatus to transmit the HTML file to the terminal apparatus when a request is received from the terminal apparatus. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that GORDON contains an inadequate and insufficient disclosure to anticipate or render unpatentable any of the claims in the present application.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Applicant has made a sincere effort to place the present application in condition for allowance and believes that he has now done so. Applicant has made of record a personal interview conducted with the Examiner in charge of the present application. Applicant has further amended various of the pending claims in the present application and submitted several additional claims for consideration by the Examiner. Claims 31 and 44 have been canceled.

Applicant has pointed out the significant and substantial shortcomings of the references cited by the Examiner with respect to the claims in the present application. Additionally, Applicant has reviewed the disclosure of the primary reference and has shown that the recitations of the claims clearly define thereover. Accordingly, Applicant has provided a clear evidentiary basis supporting the patentability of all the claims in the present application and respectfully requests an indication to such effect in due course.

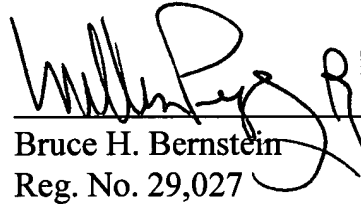
Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be

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considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this Response, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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MARKED-UP COPY OF THE CLAIMS

20. (Amended) A communication apparatus including a scanner and a printer connected to a terminal apparatus via a network, the communication apparatus comprising:

a receiver that receives e-mail data via the network;

a memory that stores the [received] e-mail data received by said receiver;

a generator that generates a HTML file including management data corresponding to the stored e-mail data, [as a structured document,] the management data including sender data of the e-mail data; and

[a server that transmits the management data to the terminal apparatus when a request for the management data is received from the terminal apparatus, the management data being displayable at the terminal apparatus]

a communicator that performs a HTTP protocol communication with the terminal apparatus to transmit the HTML file to the terminal apparatus when a request for the management data is received from the terminal apparatus, the management data in the HTML file being displayable at the terminal apparatus.

wherein, when management data is designated at the terminal apparatus, said communicator transmits e-mail data corresponding to the designated management data to the terminal apparatus.

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26. (Amended) The communication apparatus according to claim 20, [further comprising:] wherein the [a] scanner [that] scans a document to obtain image data[;], said apparatus further comprising:

a compressor that compresses the image data; and

a facsimile transmitter that transmits the compressed image data to a destination via a telephone network.

30. (Amended) A communication apparatus including a printer and a scanner connected to a terminal apparatus via a network, the communication apparatus comprising:

a receiver that receives e-mail data via the network;

a memory that stores the [received] e-mail data received by said receiver;

a generator that generates a HTML file including management data corresponding to the stored e-mail data, [as a structured document,] the management data including sender data of the e-mail data;

[a server that transmits the management data to the terminal apparatus when a request for the management data is received from the terminal apparatus, the management data being displayable at the terminal apparatus; [and

a controller that controls the stored e-mail data in accordance with a command transmitted from the terminal apparatus via the network]

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a communicator that performs a HTTP protocol communication with the terminal apparatus to transmit the HTML file to the terminal apparatus when a request for the management data is received from the terminal apparatus, the management data in the HTML file being displayable at the terminal apparatus; and

a controller that, in response to receipt of a designation of management data by the terminal apparatus, and in response to receipt of a command output by the terminal apparatus, controls a transmission of the stored e-mail data corresponding to the designated management data in accordance with the command.

32. (Amended) The communication apparatus according to claim 30, further comprising:

a converter that converts the stored e-mail data into image data; [and]

[a] wherein the printer [that] prints the converted image data; and

wherein said controller controls printing of the converted e-mail data in accordance with the command from the terminal apparatus.

33. (Amended) A communication method using a communication apparatus including a scanner and a printer connected to a terminal apparatus via a network, the method comprising:

receiving e-mail data via the network;

storing the received e-mail data into a memory [of the communication apparatus];

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generating a HTML file including management data corresponding to the stored e-mail data, [as a structured document,] the management data including sender data of the e-mail data; and

[transmitting the management data to the terminal apparatus when a request for the management data is received from the terminal apparatus, the management data being displayable at the terminal apparatus]

performing a HTTP protocol communication with the terminal apparatus to transmit the HTML file to the terminal apparatus when a request for the management data is received from the terminal apparatus, the management data in the HTML file being displayable at the terminal apparatus,

wherein, when management data is designated at the terminal apparatus, the communicator transmits e-mail data corresponding to the designated management data is transmitted to the terminal apparatus.

35. (Amended) The communication method according to claim 33, wherein the storing stores a TIFF file attached [in] to the e-mail data.

36. (Amended) The communication method according to claim 33, wherein generating the HTML file including the management data includes generating at least a time at which the e-mail data corresponding to the management data is stored in the memory.

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43. (Amended) A communication method using a communication apparatus including a printer and a scanner connected to a terminal apparatus via a network, the method comprising:

receiving e-mail data via the network;

storing the received e-mail data into a memory;

generating a HTML file including management data corresponding to the stored e-mail data, [as a structured document,] the management data including sender data of the e-mail data;

[transmitting the management data to the terminal apparatus when a request for the management data is received from the terminal apparatus, the management data being displayable at the terminal apparatus; and

controlling the stored e-mail data in accordance with a command transmitted from the terminal apparatus via the network]

performing a HTTP protocol communication with the terminal apparatus to transmit the HTML file to the terminal apparatus when a request for the management data is received from the terminal apparatus, the management data in the HTML file being displayable at the terminal apparatus;

controlling, in response to receipt of a designation of management data by the terminal apparatus and in response to receipt of a command output by the terminal apparatus,

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transmission of the stored e-mail data corresponding to the designated management data in accordance with the command.